

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: HOFU

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site is an integral part of the local community, a tourist destination, the gateway to the Schuylkill River Heritage Area, the proposed Hopewell Big Woods National Bio-Recreational Reserve and the Pennsylvania Highlands. The first National Historic Site in the National Park System built by the CCC, the park carries on the traditions of teaching conservation stewardship, American craftsmanship and demonstrates the arts of early industrial America through community engagement.. A touchstone of America's past, here students of all ages will understand both the foundation of American Industry through the work of both the private and the public sectors, a story of an American landscape from extraction to enlightened stewardship. Our centennial builds on our mission and expands our efforts to preserve the nationally significant resources associated with early Industrial America and the Great Depression. The park will provide a greater and more relevant understanding of the events, their impacts and legacy on individuals, the community and the nation.

We will achieve our goal by broadening our themes, expanding our delivery channels, and using technology, innovation and creativity to enlighten and engage historically underrepresented audiences. Through the centennial challenge we will introduce new interpretive media, renovate old Civilian Conservation Corps buildings to a state of the art education outreach campus, and partner with the Hopewell Big Woods to improve recreational offerings and be a center for Healthy America. Our goal is to preserve these lands and structures while imparting the deepest understanding of the events that occurred here. We will continue to teach current and future visitors about our nation's past and to help them appreciate and enjoy the public lands, structures and resources set aside for them.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Eddie Shean-Hammond

Site: HOFU

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Visitors safely enjoy and are satisfied with the availability, accessibility, diversity and quality of park facilities, services and recreational opportunities compatible with the park's purpose.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

Significant resources associated with Hopewell Furnace NHS (historical landscapes and features, remnant structures, archeological sites, curatorial objects and natural resources) are protected, restored, or maintained in good condition, with current levels of diversity, and managed within the broader ecosystem and cultural context. Hopewell Furnace is the first national historic site in the National Park Service discovered and developed by the CCC. For 2016 the CCC campus structures are rehabilitated with adequate restroom and classroom space to carry on the legacy of the CCC. The project will improve the condition of the buildings while also significantly aiding park interpretative and education staff in connecting people to the stories and resources of the park. Our Centennial Vision will turn these buildings into a state of the art educational center, with indoor and outdoor meeting areas, field labs, classrooms and multimedia capability. In addition to providing an education center for local students, the upgraded building will provide park staff, invited educators and local teachers the resources available to develop and execute curriculum based programs.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Preserve our resources by controlling damaging water intrusions and flooding using the Comprehensive Drainage Study expected in the summer of 2007.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Based upon our new interpretive themes in our General Management Plan as well as a new Long Range Interpretive Plan (scheduled for 2009) the park will develop new orientation media and replace outdated media park wide. The interpretive programming is a model for the NPS Interpretive Renaissance.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park functions as a university without walls passing on both cultural and natural legacies with SCA, and other educational organizations. Hopewell Furnace NHS will be a leader in connecting its trails system with trails throughout French Creek State Park and the larger Hopewell Big Woods bio-recreational reserve. The park will offer programs engaging American of all ages in recreational pursuits such as hiking, bird-watching, and apple picking.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Park visitors and the general public understand and appreciate the significant innovations and events associated with Hopewell Furnace NHS and their role in the American iron industry and in the evolution of American iron-making and its impact on the region and the nation. The public understands how American people have used this landscape over 200 years from extraction to enlightened stewardship.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

Hopewell Furnace NHS uses effective management practices, systems, and technologies to accomplish its mission.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Hopewell Furnace NHS increases its managerial resources through initiatives and support from other agencies, organizations, and individuals.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: HOFU

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

The park strengthens and expands its network of partners and work cooperatively to preserve and interpret resources related to Hopewell Furnace NHS.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS